

AG Committee Testimony

When I looked over the information requested by Chairman Goodlatte's office, I reasoned that what you were looking for was what we might call "professional testimony" like from our poultry and egg association or farmers federation.

However Whitney of Congressman Rogers' office assured me you would rather hear from actual producers rather than their PR people. I did consult other growers, Johnny Adams of Alabama Poultry and Egg, Guy Hall of Farmers Federation, and Wayne Lord of Gold Kist, my contractor, and concluded that the following issues should be addressed on the federal level:

1. Disease Prevention and/or Control

Adequately staffed, alert, watchful, and responsible authorities must be ready and well equipped to act/react on a moments notice so outbreaks can be contained with minimum damage.

2. Environmental

All decisions should be based on sound, solid scientific fact. Don't allow competing interest to dictate environmental regulations so as to further their own selfish agendas. Case in point: Most of our land needs more chicken litter, not less, to be fertile and environmentally friendly.

3. Fuel Supply/Cost

Energy cost and unreliable supplies are a major concern for our entire nation not just the poultry industry. It is appropriate that the federal government take the lead in researching and developing economical alternatives to petroleum products.

4. Fair Trade

There is always the need to keep the other guy fair and honest. In a global economy this applies to other countries as well. We want fair trade, not just free trade.

How? Is public money invested in these matters good policy? We certainly think so. Help on these items will assist tens of thousands of poultry growers equally all over the country, not just here in Alabama. Also a healthy poultry industry assures the grain growers of the Midwest that their major market is secure.

Here in Alabama there are 34 people employed in servicing, processing, and marketing each poultry farmer's production. This has been a major help to re-employ former textile workers whose jobs have moved to China.

Now, one last request as a citizen with eight grandchildren: Let's not allow this country to become dependent on foreign entities for our food, as we did for oil, and as we are doing for our clothing.

Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Information Required From Non-governmental Witnesses

House rules require non-governmental witnesses to provide their resume or biographical sketch prior to testifying. If you do not have a resume or biographical sketch available, please complete this form.

1. Name: Bob YATES
2. Business Address: 25632 HWY 48
WOODLAND, ALA 36280
3. Business Phone Number: 256-449-2912
4. Organization you represent: NONE
5. Please list any occupational, employment, or work-related experience you have which add to your qualification to provide testimony before the Committee:
35 YEARS Full Time Farmer
Primarily Broiler Chickens,
but also CATTLE AND Timber
6. Please list any special training, education, or professional experience you have which add to your qualifications to provide testimony before the Committee:
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION,
CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, FARM
MAGAZINE Editor, TERRITORY MANAGER-
Feed SALES
7. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list the capacity in which you are representing that organization, including any offices or elected positions you hold:
- NONE -

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM OR YOUR BIOGRAPHY TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.

Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Required Witness Disclosure Form

House Rules* require nongovernmental witnesses to disclose the amount and source of Federal grants received since October 1, 2004.

Name: Bob YATES
Address: 25632 HWY 48, WOODLAND, ALA
Telephone: 256-449-2912
Organization you represent (if any): NONE

1. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2004, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract. House Rules do NOT require disclosure of federal payments to individuals, such as Social Security or Medicare benefits, farm program payments, or assistance to agricultural producers:

Source: NONE Amount: _____

Source: _____ Amount: _____

2. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) the organization has received since October 1, 2004, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract:

Source: NONE Amount: _____

Source: _____ Amount: _____

Please check here if this form is NOT applicable to you:

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Signature: Bob Yates

* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(4) of the U.S. House of Representatives provides: Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof. In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by any entity represented by the witness.

PLEASE ATTACH DISCLOSURE FORM TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.